

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee  
Regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget for Department of Children and Families

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Submitted by Hui Min Li

Re: The Connection Inc. Supportive Housing for Families Program

Hello members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Hui Min Li, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued funding of the Supportive Housing for Families Program from The Connection and to share my story.

I have one child, a son, Samus who is now 4 years old. When I moved to the United States in 2017, I had graduated from the National Taiwan University of Art, and I lived in New York and Iceland for a period of time. Soon afterwards my husband and I moved to the United States. When I was six months pregnant, I experienced domestic violence and DCF became involved with my family. I was staying in a domestic violence shelter in New Haven with my son when DCF referred me to The Connection's Supportive Housing for Families program. I was accepted into the program on January 18, 2022, as a preservation case with DCF.

Shortly after my first meeting with my Case Manager, we started viewing apartments and within several months I was able to move into my own apartment on April 12, 2022. This helped me and Samus feel safe for the first time.

The support from the program with a security deposit, rental assistance, furniture, and driving school to obtain my license has been invaluable to me and my son and allowed us to be a family and to start over. I was able to focus on saving money, work part time, and receive a RAP voucher. My DCF case closed successfully after I was housed.

I appreciate all of the support from my Case Manager and the program. If it wasn't for this program, I wouldn't have made it to where I am now. I, again, would like to thank you for your continued support of this program which has helped many families stay together.